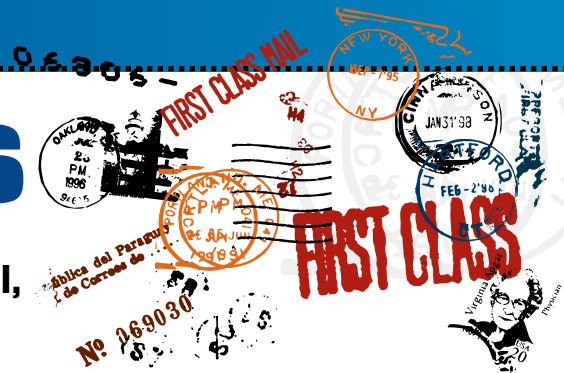


# COMMENTS

Got something to say about Airman? Write us at [airman@dma.mil](mailto:airman@dma.mil), or visit [www.AIRMANonline.af.mil](http://www.AIRMANonline.af.mil), to share views with fellow readers.



## CCAF: EDUCATION NOW



After reading your article "CCAF: Education Now" as well as the op-ed piece by Chief Master Sgt. Proietti, [January-February 2009] I am further convinced of the importance and priority of a college education in today's Air Force. As a Tech. Sgt. Reservist (IMA) assigned to the 10th Security Forces Squadron at the U.S. Air Force Academy, I spent several years on active duty where I pursued my Community College of the Air Force degree in conjunction with my Bachelor of Management Information Systems.

As concern was mounting regarding my ability to remain on active duty after four years on orders, I received information regarding a job opportunity related to my background. During the application process, I found that the minimum requirements for the position included a bachelor's degree among other criteria. The CCAF and pending graduation for my bachelor's degree were enough to convince my employer that the minimum requirement had been met. While I may still have been offered the position, the CCAF was a strong addition to my resume. I received the job offer and remain in the position to this day.

During my eight years in the Air Force Reserve (after prior service), I've now used my GI Bill, tuition assistance, and work-related benefits to enable me to complete my bachelor's and master's degrees with very little impact to my financial standing.

Our young Airmen need to know that one of the greatest assets they have in the Air Force is their ability to gain education that will serve them throughout their lives. No one will do it for them – nor will they be forced to gain the education. However, once they make the commitment, they'll find it's much easier and vastly more rewarding than they could have ever imagined.

Education is no longer only relevant in the

officer corps. It's time for our enlisted force to take advantage of the opportunities that exist throughout the Air Force for those who are motivated, dedicated and educated!

*Educationally yours,*

**Tech. Sgt. Brian S. Raymond,**  
U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.

## SERE CHEER



I just finished reading the latest article on SERE Training [January-February 2009] and have to say that overall it showed huge improvement over many past articles. The key thing I noticed is the use of the term "SERE Specialist," which is the correct form of address for our men and women. While we do instruction in many of our duties, we are far beyond the realm of SERE or Survival Instructor, the terms used as I was coming up through the ranks.

I applaud the efforts to keep terminology relevant and correct, and hope to see even more of it in the future, particularly when going to stock photos to describe events (this seems to be where much of the outdated terminology occurs). As you can see, there is still room for improvement, but this article showed good attention to detail and attempts to consistently and accurately portray who we are.

I look forward to the next time I read about the substantial efforts of young SERE Specialists to prepare Air Force, sister service, DoD or civilian agency, or coalition partners to "Survive and Return with Honor."

**Chief Master Sgt. Paul A. Knox**  
SERE Specialist Career Field Manager

## 'GO AIR FORCE!'



It's pretty bad when someone can find a proofreading error by reading the nametag of a person in one of your magazine photos.

In the bottom right-hand photograph on pg. 17 of the Nov/Dec issue the caption should have been "Tech. Sgt. Melinda Ford and Senior Airman Angela Burton...", not the other way around. Where I work the penalty for such a foul would be a bottle of single-barrel Jack Daniels.

**Gary "Virus" Fullington**

F-15E Operational Test project manager

**Editor's note:** We at Airman strive for 100 percent accuracy in all aspects of our production. While we make every effort to ensure perfection, we understand that mistakes do sometimes happen. We are determined to maintain the highest possible standards for Airman. So, Mr. Fullington, thank you for bringing this to our attention.

## USO KUDOS



Although a Kiwi (New Zealander), I live in Colorado with my wife and son, but my work is in Afghanistan contracted to assist U.S.



# Airman

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Copy Editor **Douglas Lefforme**  
Copy Editor **Janie Santos**  
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## EDITORIAL OFFICE

**Airman**, DMA-San Antonio, 203 Norton St.,  
San Antonio, TX 78226-1848  
Telephone 210-925-7757; DSN 945-7757,  
fax 210-925-7219; DSN 945-7219  
E-mail: [airman@dma.mil](mailto:airman@dma.mil)

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clients and work beside U.S. forces. In a recent time on one frontline forward operating base, I picked up a copy of the Nov/Dec issue of **Airman** and was humbled to read the article about the USO and its ongoing, tremendous support to U.S. troops.

I recently returned to work, leaving behind my five-month-old son and took a keen notice, this time, while sitting at Denver International airport of the USO volunteers, their smiles and selfless dedication to the servicemen and women of the U.S. armed forces.

I wish, over my 12 years of service in my military, we had had something on the same lines as this back home. But putting the geographical size of the United States and her military, the dedication of such an organization is greatly needed and, as I read, appreciated.

God bless all the USO volunteers and God bless all serving military personnel of the "coalition against terrorism", and their families for their continued sacrifice.

Shoulder to shoulder, we have the winning hand.

**G. Brown**  
*Southeast Afghanistan*

I am a volunteer with the Dallas/Fort Worth USO. We were all very pleased with the article! [November-December 2008] A colonel brought us

an issue as he came through Dallas, yesterday. We all enjoy the time we can spend supporting our military, in any way we can.

I am very blessed to know Dale and Dianna Titel, the Kissing Grandmas, Jean Saunders, Joan Wright, and others. They all work so hard for our troops. Actually, so many people put their hearts into the time we spend with them. I can name you only a few of the hundreds of people who lovingly do whatever they can to make travel easier for the troops and their families. I can never put into words how proud, and blessed I am every week to hang out with our Armed Forces. They are so dedicated, committed to their buddies, loving to their families, and still joking the same way I hear young people cutting up all the time.

My son-in-law is Staff Sgt. Chadd Thomas at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. I am so very proud of him, my daughter, and their friends in the Air Force. Even though I love and support all the branches, I wear pins for all, but the Air Force is special to me. So, if you are ever in D/FW USO, on Tuesday, in uniform, and you hear someone yell, "Go Air Force!," it's most likely me. Make sure all Airmen know they have a place to hang out in Dallas.

*Until everyone comes home...*

**Pamela D. Bell**  
*D/FW USO volunteer*

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